



April  
2020

## City of West Des Moines COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 virus, Mayor Steve Gaer authorized City Manager Tom Hadden to take actions necessary to provide for the public health, safety and welfare of employees and the citizens of West Des Moines.

As a result, Hadden closed City Hall to the public on March 19. Although some employees will be working from home, Hadden said an appropriate number of staff will be working in the building to answer phones and conduct business online.

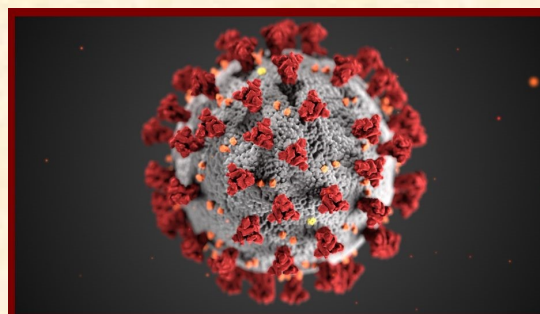
"All our employees will be following CDC social distancing guidelines and recommendations because we want to do everything at work and at home to slow the spread of this virus," he said.

In addition to City Hall, the Public Services building at 560 South 16th Street, the Raccoon River Park Nature Lodge and the Valley Junction Activity Center are closed to the public.

Hadden said residents can rest assured that Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services

stand ready to answer calls for assistance.

Although parks and trails remain open at this time, playgrounds and picnic shelters are closed.



While visiting any public space, Hadden said to use your best judgment and act responsibly by following recommended guidelines of keeping social gatherings to less than 10 people and observing social distancing

standards of staying at least 6 feet from others.

Everyone is urged to work from home, if possible, and to run only essential errands to buy food or get medication. **If you do not feel well or have been sick, you must stay home.**

"Now is the time to make sure everyone practices these steps so we can slow the spread of COVID-19 and save lives," he said.

**Since things are changing quickly, he urged residents to visit the City's website for updates.**

**The City also has a COVID-19 YouTube Channel.**

Visit [www.wdm.iowa.gov/covid19](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/covid19) for additional information and to stay up-to-date with changes to West Des Moines parks, facilities, services, programs and events during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Connect with us! [www.wdm.iowa.gov](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov)



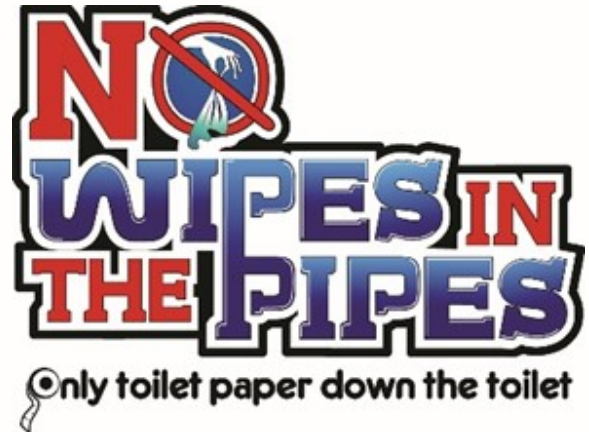
## Flushable doesn't mean it won't clog your pipes!

The package says "flushable." But, is it really?

Baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, tampons and applicators and paper towels may say "flushable" on the label, but they can still clog your sewer.

While toilet paper breaks down in water, other items such as paper towels and wipes do not break down. This means they can get stuck in your sewer pipe and create large bills for plumbing and cleanup.

Don't spend your money on a sewer backup. Anything that isn't toilet paper should be placed in your garbage. **Think before you flush!**



## West Des Moines: It's Census Day!

The U.S. Census Bureau has mailed invitations to all Americans to complete the 2020 Census. You can respond by phone, by mail, or for the first time in Census history, ***you can respond online!***

It's important for all West Des Moines residents to be counted so that we have a chance to receive the funding and resources we need as a rapidly growing city. All the information you share is confidential, and the data helps determine how approximately **\$675 billion in federal funding** flows into states and communities each year.

Because the Census is so important, everyone is required by law to respond. The Census Bureau also is required by law to protect your answers. Your responses are used only to produce statistics. No personal information is disclosed by the Census Bureau.

If you don't respond online or answer a questionnaire that is mailed to you, a Census taker will knock on your door and ask you the questions.

**[Find out more by reading our Census news release.](#)**



Hazardous Waste includes items that are flammable or corrosive, and they do not belong in the regular trash and shouldn't be poured down the drain.

To help you dispose of these items properly, the City has partnered with Metro Waste Authority to offer houseside hazardous waste collection.

Due to COVID-19, Metro Waste Authority hazardous waste drop-offs in Grimes and Bondurant will be closed to the public until further notice. If a resident chooses houseside collection of hazardous waste, the cost is \$25 for two 12-gallon bins and one large bag. Container deliveries and pick-ups occur on the second and fourth Fridays of the month.

**[For more information or to request household collection, visit MWA's website](#)** or call (515) 244-0021.





# Spring is here!

## Compost It! to Dispose of Lawn Clippings, Twigs and Leaves

Metro Waste Authority's Compost It! program collects yard waste at your curb from April 6 — November 28, 2020.

Residents receiving City-provided solid waste service can purchase Compost It! brand bags and stickers at local grocers or hardware stores. The purchase of the bags or stickers covers the cost for curbside collection. Small twigs and branches, leaves and lawn clippings, as well as garden vegetation, can be collected.

- ◆ Twigs and branches: each bundle requires a **green Compost it! sticker** and must be smaller than four feet long by eighteen inches in diameter.
- ◆ Leaves and lawn clippings: these should be placed at the curb in Compost It! yard waste bags or store-brand bags with a green Compost It! sticker. No other bags can be collected.

- ◆ Garden vegetation: if it died on the vine, it can be disposed of through the Compost It! program. However, spoiled fruits and vegetables from the fridge belong in the trash.

For collection, have bagged or stickered yard waste at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on your regular collection day.

For a complete list of retailers selling Compost It! stickers & bags, visit [www.whereditshouldgo.com](http://www.whereditshouldgo.com) or call (515) 244-0021.

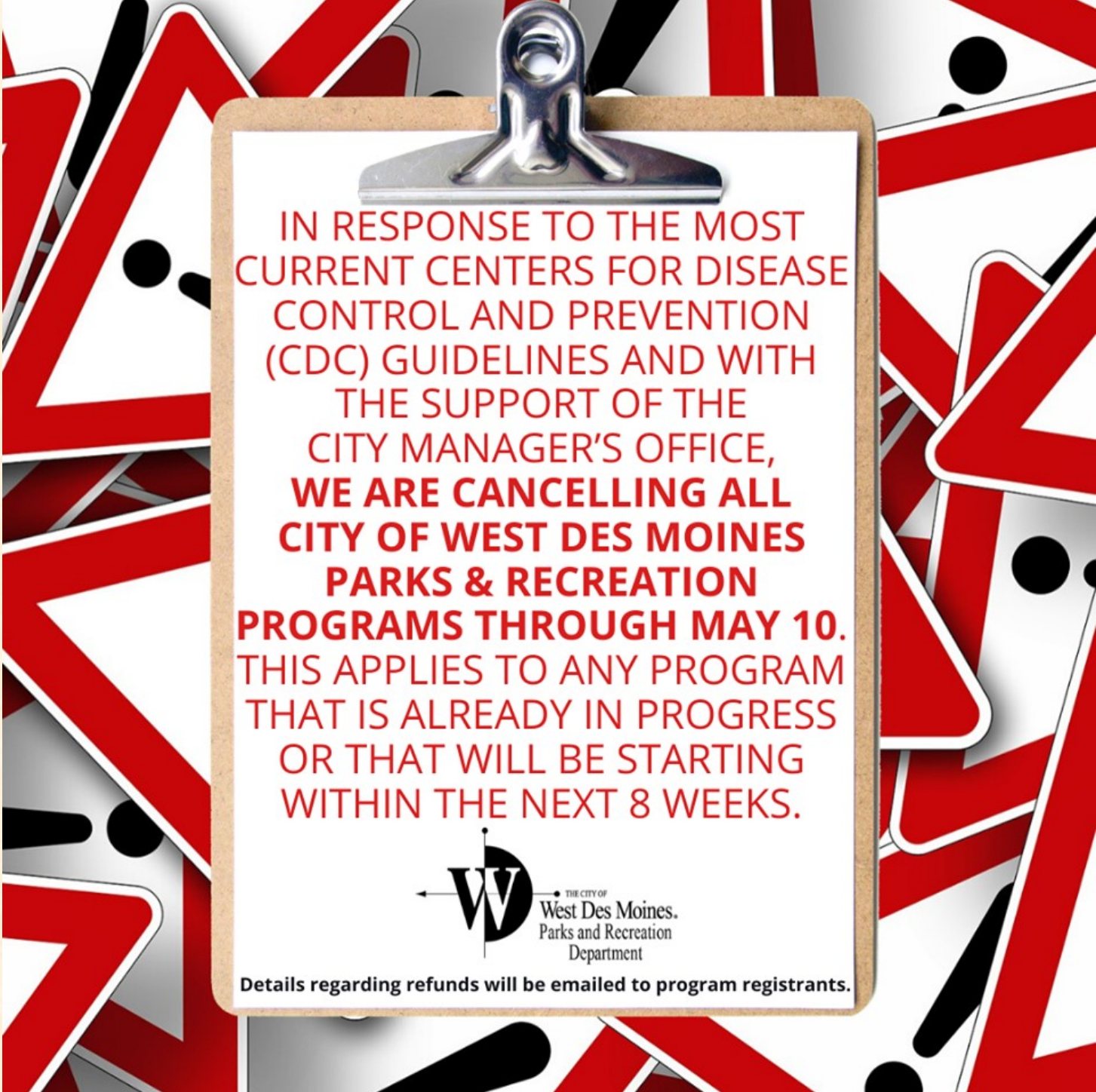
*\* If you live in a Homeowners Association, please check with the HOA regarding participation.*



For more information on any of your solid waste needs, call Metro Waste Authority at 244-0021 or visit [www.WherItShouldGo.com](http://www.WherItShouldGo.com).

If you would like a premium yard waste cart, contact Public Services at 222-3480.

Visit the Parks and Recreation web page for updates since things are changing so quickly.



IN RESPONSE TO THE MOST  
CURRENT CENTERS FOR DISEASE  
CONTROL AND PREVENTION  
(CDC) GUIDELINES AND WITH  
THE SUPPORT OF THE  
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE,  
**WE ARE CANCELLING ALL  
CITY OF WEST DES MOINES  
PARKS & RECREATION  
PROGRAMS THROUGH MAY 10.**  
THIS APPLIES TO ANY PROGRAM  
THAT IS ALREADY IN PROGRESS  
OR THAT WILL BE STARTING  
WITHIN THE NEXT 8 WEEKS.



Details regarding refunds will be emailed to program registrants.

#### Discounted Pool Passes for Low-Income Households

Beginning April 1, reduced rate season pool passes are available through West Des Moines Human Services to income-eligible residents of West Des Moines. The discounted price of a pass is based on a household's income level and ranges from \$20 to \$40. The passes allow admittance to the following pools: Holiday Park Aquatic Center, Valley View Aquatic Center and Clive Aquatic Center. Please call 222-3660 to learn more.



## Thinking about home renovations?

If you're thinking about making renovations to your home, you may qualify for up to \$10,000 in a forgivable home loan.

Sections of the City of West Des Moines are located in a Neighborhood Finance Corporation (NFC) lending area, which means homeowners may apply for an NFC Advantage Loan and qualify for a forgivable loan of up to \$10,000 in home renovations.

The forgivable loan is available when first qualifying for a purchase, refinance or home improvement loan. In addition, some homebuyers may qualify for up to \$10,500 in down payment assistance. For details on NFC's lending programs, please visit [www.NeighborhoodFinance.org](http://www.NeighborhoodFinance.org).



NFC is a non-profit, licensed Iowa mortgage company offering purchase, refinance and home improvement loans. Every NFC Advantage loan

is paired with a forgivable loan that is forgiven with five years of owner-occupancy.

NFC partners with Polk County, the City of West Des Moines, neighborhood associations and local financial institutions to fa-

cilitate neighborhood revitalization in NFC lending areas.

[To see if your home currently qualifies for NFC Lending, please visit the NFC lending map](#) at or call their office at (515) 246-0010.

## LIHEAP application deadline is now May 29

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federal program created to assist low income households with home energy needs.

The program is meant to target those who are most vulnerable: the disabled, the elderly and families with young children.

If you live in Polk County and are interested in applying for LIHEAP, please contact West Des Moines Human Services at 222-3660.

You will be told at the time of application whether you are eligible, and if so, for what amount you might qualify.

**Update: The application deadline is now May 29.**

Dallas County residents must call New Opportunities at (515) 465-5185 to apply.

**Required documents include:**

1. Proof of income for all household members.  
For households with no income, please call 222-3660 for more information.
2. Documentation of social security cards for all household members.
3. A copy of your most recent heating/electric bill.

# 2020 Solid Waste Events for WDM Residents

**UPDATE: Annual Spring Cleanup has been postponed**

April 6	Yard Waste Pickup begins on your normal trash collection day
<del>April 11</del>	Scrap Tire Drop-off, 7:30 a.m. — 4 p.m., West Des Moines Public Services <b>The Scrap Tire Drop-off event has been postponed due to COVID-19</b>
<del>May 21</del>	National Public Works Week Celebration, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Valley Junction Farmer's Market <b>Cancelled</b>
<del>June 1 – 5</del>	Annual Spring Cleanup — on your regular trash day. No appliances accepted (see June 6 event). <b>Postponed</b>
<del>June 6</del>	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off * 8 a.m. — 12:00 (noon), West Des Moines Public Services <b>Cancelled</b>
September 12	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off * 8 a.m. — 12:00 (noon), West Des Moines Public Services
November 28	Yard Waste Pickup Ends
Dec. 28, 2020 — Jan. 8, 2021	Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection

\*Paper shredding services will not be provided by the City due to the variety of privately sponsored paper shredding events in our area throughout the year.

Yard Waste and Annual Spring Cleanup events are available to all WDM residents who are eligible for solid waste collection.

For Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Options, [visit Metro Waste Authority's website](#).

For more information, [visit www.wdm.iowa.gov](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov) or call WDM Public Services at 222-3480.



## Construction Updates



If you would like to learn more about Engineering and Parks and Recreation projects under construction, just visit our [website](#). You can also view drone footage of construction projects by [visiting Engineering Services YouTube Channel!](#)